

## Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01 T-03 SCI-06 EB-11 AID-20

RSR-01 /081 W

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P 120932 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1438

AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEHRAN 1570

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PBOR, AF, IR

SUBJ: HELMAND WATERS: IRANIAN PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA

DEPARTS FOR OFFICIAL VISIT TO KABUL

REU: TEHRAN 0993

1. TEHRAN PRESS MARCH 12 FRONT- PAGES PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA'S DEPARTURE SAME DAY FOR THREE DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO KABUL AMONG INDICATIONS THAT IRAN AND AFGHANISTAN ARE ABOUT TO COMPLETE ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING THE HELMAND RIVER. HOVEYDA, INVITED BY AFGHANISTAN PREMIER, IS REPORTEDLY ACCOMPANIED BY GOI MINISTER OF STATE SOFIA ASFIA ( REFTEL, POLITICAL UNDERSECRETARY MANUCHEHR FARTASH ( MFA) AND HOSSEIN SHAHIDZADEH ( MFA, CHIEF OF NON- ARAB MIDDLE EAST).

2. ACCORDING PRESS, ADDITIONAL ITEMS ON AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION ARE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH EMPHASIS ON TRADE EXPANSION, DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN SUBCONTINENT AND MIDDLE EAST, AND CONSTRUCTION OF HIGHWAY CONNECTING KANDAHAR TO BANDAR ABBAS.

3. PRESS NOTES HOVEYDA'S VISIT TAKING PLACE WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF GROWING IRANO- AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS AND THAT HE CARRIES MESSAGE OF FRIENDSHIP FROM HIM TO KING ZAHER. SEMI- OFFICIAL KAYHAN EDITORIAL STATES HOVEYDA'S VISIT TAKING PLACE IN NEW MOOD OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO BROTHERLY NATIONS, AND COMMENTS THAT  
A  
STRONG AND PROSPEROUS AFGHANISTAN WOULD BE A WORTHY AND EQUAL  
PARTNER FOR IRAN AND COULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MAINTENANCE  
OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION.

COMMENT: ALTHOUGH PRESS DOES NOT CATEGORICALLY STATE HOVEYDA  
WILL SIGN HELMAND WATERS AGREEMENT, THIS SEEMS TO BE BASIC  
PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP.  
HECK

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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